

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 USSS-00 SY-10 RSR-01 IO-13 /131 W

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R 311500Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7656

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION UN

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1660

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS CY

SUBJECT: JULY 31 SCENE IN CYPRUS

REF: NICOSIA 1652

SUMMARY: BOMB BLASTS AND NEW ARRESTS HAVE DROPPED
OFF MARKEDLY DURING PAST 24 HOURS. MINJUSTICE VAKIS STILL
MISSING, BUT SO FAR NO RPT NO SIGN THAT GRIVAS CAMP HAS SET
CONDITIONS FOR HIS RELEASE. MAKARIOS PRESS CONFERENCE RE-
VEALS NO DEPARTURES CURRENT GOC POLICY.

1. JULY 31 PRESS HIGHLIGHTS STATEMENT FROM SECRETARIAT OF
GOG PRIME MINISTER CONDEMNING KIDNAPPING (ATHENS 5273)
THAT NEW WAVE OF VIOLENCE COULD HAVE CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS ON UNITY
OF CYPRIOT HELLENISM AND FUTURE OF ISLAND. GOG AMB LAGACOS
REPORTEDLY CONVEYED THIS MESSAGE TO MAKARIOS IN MEETING JULY 30.
IN JUL 31 PRESS CONFERENCE ARCHBISHOP CALLED IT "TIMELY" AND
"CLEAR", HOPED IT WOULD FIND "NECESSARY RESPONSE." MAKARIOS
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ALSO PROFESSED HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF REASONS FOR VAKIS ABDUCTION,

AND SAID GOVT HAS RECEIVED NO TERMS FOR HIS RELEASE. CONSISTENT WITH HIS HARD-LINE JULY 28 STATEMENT REFUSING GIVE IN TO TERRORIST METHODS, ARCHBISHOP DECLARED HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT ACCEPT SUCH TERMS IF OFFERED.

2. AS PART CONTINUING GOC CAMPAIGN TO PURGE SECURITY FORCES OF UNRELIABLE ELEMENTS, PRESS REPORTS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS JULY 30 DECIDED TO FIRE SOME 70 MEN (INCLUDING HANDFUL OFFICERS) FROM POLICE FORCE, AND DISMISS 7 CYPRIOT OFFICERS FROM NATIONAL GUARD.

3. TUESDAY PRESS CONTINUED CARRY REPORT (REFTEL) OF SUNDAY EVENING ATTACK ON MAKARIOS SUMMER RESIDENCE IN TROODOS. HOWEVER, PIO RELEASE SIMPLY SAID THAT SHOTS HEARD AND FIRE SEEN IN VICINITY PALACE; EMPTY CARTRIDGES FOUND; AND FIRE PUT OUT. UK HICOMM TELLS US THAT IN FACT RAF UNITS PUT OUT FIRE. ON BASIS THEIR REPORTS HICOMM DISCOUNTS PRESS PLAY AS UNFOUNDED. WE ASSUME THAT, AT MOST, THIS WAS A MINOR NUISANCE ACTION.

4. RIGHTIST "ETHNIKI" RESUMED PUBLICATION 31, WHILE "GNOMI" ANNOUNCED INDEFINITE SUSPENSION. COMBINATION OF ARRESTS AND PHYSICAL INTIMIDATION PRINTERS MAY HAVE SERVED TO COW "GNOMI" AND OTHER RIGHTIST PRESS FOR TIME BEING.

5. SYG SPECIAL REP OSORIO TAFAL HAS CONFIRMED INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS TO RESUME AUGUST 1 ON SCHEDULE).

6. COMMENT: ABSENCE TO DATE ANY SIGN THAT GRIVASITES ATTEMPTING EXTRACT CONCESSIONS IN RETURN FOR RELEASE MIN VAKIS SUGGESTS ABDUCTION DESIGNED TO TERRORIZE/DEMORALIZE GOC MINISTERS AND PERHAPS TO ASSURE THAT ARRESTED GRIVASITS ARE WELL TREATED. CONCEIVABLY, GRIVASISTS MAY BE IMPRESSING ON VAKIS (AS CONDUIT TO MAKARIOS) THEIR WILLINGNESS TO TAKE DESPARATE ACTION IF THREE RECALCITRANT BISHOPS ARE SUBJECTED TO FURTHER PRESSURES. BOTH SIDES NOW FACE WAITING GAME WHILE GRIVASISTS, PRESUMABLY HAVING FAILED TO MAKE, OR EVEN OFFER, NEGOTIABLE BARGAIN OVER VAKIS, DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH HIM. MEANWHILE, MAKARIOS TIGHTENING DISCIPLINE TO ASSURE POLICE LOYALTY.

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